
BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT



ANNUAL REPORT

OF

THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

For the year 1958

Boldon Urban District Council

1958.

Chairman :

COUNCILLOR MRS. M. A. SIMPSON.

Vice-Chairman :

COUNCILLOR O. CLARK

COUN. T. BROWN.

COUN. R. McDARMONT.

„ J. J. EGGLESHAW.

„ N. PATTERSON.

„ MRS. M. GIBSON.

„ J. R. PEARS.

„ L. HANNAH.

„ JOS. W. SHAW.

„ D. S. HEWET.

„ J. TATE.

Chairman of the Health Committee :

COUNCILLOR M. HANNAH.

Chairman of the Housing Committee :

COUNCILLOR S. ROBINSON.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT.

COUNCIL OFFICES,

EAST BOLDON.

TEL. BOLDON 7241.

Officials.

Medical Officer of Health: T. C. FALCONER, M.B.Ch.B., D.P.H.
(from 1/4/59).

Medical Officer of Health : R. C. F. SMITH, M.D., B.S.,
D.P.H., F.R.I.P.H., (Resigned 31-7-58).

Public Health Inspector : R. W. ARMSTRONG, M.A.P.H.I.,
A.M.I.P.H.E.

Clerk to the Health Department : MRS. L. SLATER.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

*To the Chairman and Members of the
Urban District of Boldon.*

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

I have pleasure in submitting the Annual Report of the Medical Officer of Health on the health of the Urban District and the work of the Health Department for the year 1958.

The Local Government Act, 1933, Section 111 (County of Durham) Scheme, 1957, which made provision for the regrouping of local authorities served by a joint M.O.H., was implemented on the retirement of the M.O.H. of the Urban Districts of Hetton, Houghton and Washington. As a result, on the 31st July, 1958, my predecessor in office, Dr. R. C. F. Smith became M.O.H. to these three authorities while retaining the post of M.O.H. to Sunderland Rural District Council, and resigning as M.O.H. to the Urban District of Boldon. The Jarrow, Hebburn, Felling and Boldon United Districts (Medical Officer of Health) Amendment Order, 1959, extended the area of the United Districts of Jarrow, Hebburn and Felling, which had existed since 1953, to include the Urban District of Boldon; this Order came into effect on 1st April, 1959, on which date I thus became M.O.H. to the Urban District of Boldon.

I was not, therefore, in office during the period covered by this Annual Report and I am greatly indebted to the staff of the Health Department for assistance in its compilation.

The following are the main features of the Vital Statistics for the year, 1958.

POPULATION.

The Registrar General estimates the total population for the Boldon Urban District to be 19,540 for mid-year 1958; this figure shows an increase of 580 compared with 1957. A review of the Statistics over the past years show the present day population in this area to be the highest for 21 years.

BIRTH RATE.

The Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population for 1958, is 20.5 compared with 20.2 for 1957. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for 1958 is 16.4.

The Still Birth Rate for this district is 12.3. The number of Still Births in the area was .5.

DEATH RATE.

The Death Rate for 1958 is 12.6 per 1,000 of the population, an increase of 0.5 on last year's figure. The Death Rate for England and Wales for 1958 given by the Registrar General is 11.7. The total number of deaths in the Urban District was 247, an increase of 16 compared with last year's figure which was 231.

NATURAL INCREASE OF POPULATION.

The number of Births in excess of deaths in 1958, was 153.

INFANT MORTALITY.

The Death Rate of all infants under one year of age, per 1,000 live births is 17.5 for 1958; this shows an increase of 11.2 on the figure given for 1957. The figure given by the Registrar General for England and Wales for this year is 22.5, the lowest ever recorded.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, eleven cases were notified as compared with sixteen in 1957.

CANCER.

During the year there were seven deaths from Cancer of the Lung; the association between this disease and heavy cigarette smoking is now well established. Addiction to cigarettes involves a serious personal hazard to health which millions of people are willing to accept readily. The example set to children and young people, in this connection, is a personal responsibility which, although unaccepted by many, should not be

lightly shelved by all who may exert influence over the rising generation.

In conclusion, I wish to record my appreciation of the assistance and co-operation I have received from Chairmen, Members of the Council, other Officials, and my Staff in the Health Department.

T. C. FALCONER,
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH.

Health Department.
September, 1959.

BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT.

The Registrar-General's estimate of the Resident population for mid-year 1958 is 19,540.

UNEMPLOYMENT.

The following table shows the extent of unemployment in the district :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1958	77	33	110

The number of unemployed for last year was :—

<i>Date.</i>	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
31st December, 1957	37	26	63

VITAL STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1958.

Births and Birth Rates.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
LIVE BIRTHS	209	191	400
Legitimate	206	187	393
Illegitimate	3	4	7

The Crude BIRTH RATE per thousand of the estimated population is 20.4.

	<i>Males.</i>	<i>Females.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
STILL BIRTHS	1	4	5
Legitimate	1	4	5
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The STILL-BIRTH RATE per 1,000 live and still births is 12.3.

Deaths and Death Rate.

During 1958, there were 247 Deaths registered as having occurred within the district, namely :—

134 males, and 113 females.

The CRUDE DEATH RATE of the estimated population is 12.6.

The following table shows the variation in the Birth and Death Rates, and the increase in population during the preceding four years, as compared with 1958.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Population</i>	<i>Birth Rate.</i>	<i>Death Rate.</i>	
1954	17,600	18.8	11.2	} Standardised Death Rate.
1955	18,020	16.1	11.2	
1956	18,390	17.9	11.9	
1957	18,960	20.2	12.1	
1958	19,540	20.4	12.6	

Comparability Factor.

The Registrar General's figures for deaths include those of members of the armed forces who are stationed in the area. The population figures given are home populations (i.e.) including members of the armed forces stationed in the area. Area comparability factors for births and for deaths, allowing for the differing age and sex distribution of the population in different areas are Births 0.94, Deaths, 1.13, these may be used for comparing birth rates and death rates with those in other areas.

Infant Mortality.

DEATHS OF INFANTS UNDER 1 YEAR OF AGE.

	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
Legitimate	5	2	7
Illegitimate .....	.....	.....	.....

The Causes of Death were :—

Uraemia	1
Broncho Pneumonia	2
Prematurity	2
Asphyxia	2

The Death Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births is 17.5.

The following table shows the Infant Mortality Rate for all infants per 1,000 Live Births in 1958, as compared with the preceding 4 years.

INFANT MORTALITY PER 1,000 LIVE BIRTHS.

<i>Year.</i>	<i>Rate.</i>
1954	30.2
1955	28.8
1956	9.1
1957	28.7
1958	17.5

The Population, Birth, Death and Infantile Mortality Rates for 1954, 1955, 1956, 1957 and 1958, are shown below for comparison.

Year.	Population.	Birth Rate.	Standardised Death Rate.	Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 Live Births.
1954.....	17,600	18.8	11.2	30.2
1955.....	18,020	16.1	11.2	28.8
1956.....	18,390	17.9	11.9	9.1
1957.....	18,960	20.2	12.1	28.7
1958.....	19,540	20.4	12.6	17.5

DEATHS FROM PUERPERAL CAUSES.

No deaths were notified as being due to puerperal causes.

CAUSES OF DEATH IN THE BOLDON URBAN DISTRICT DURING 1958.

The causes of all deaths in the district during 1958 of males and females, are shown in the following table :—

<i>Causes of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total</i>
1. Tuberculosis, respiratory.....	1	0	1
2. Tuberculosis, other	0	0	0
3. Syphilitic disease	0	0	0
4. Whooping Cough	0	0	0
5. Diphtheria	0	0	0
6. Meningococcal infection	0	0	0
7. Acute Poliomyelitis	0	0	0
8. Measles	0	0	0
9. Other infective and parasitic diseases	0	0	0
10. Malignant neoplasm, stomach	5	5	10
11. Malignant neoplasm, Lung, bronchus	6	1	7
12. Malignant neoplasm, breast	0	3	3
13. Malignant neoplasm, uterus	0	2	2
14. Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	10	9	19
15. Leukaemia, aleukaemia	0	0	0
16. Diabetes	1	1	2
17. Vascular Lesions of nervous system	28	18	46

<i>Cause of Death.</i>	<i>Male.</i>	<i>Female.</i>	<i>Total.</i>
18. Coronary disease angina	28	20	48
19. Hypertension with heart disease	1	5	6
20. Other heart disease	7	17	24
21. Other circulatory disease	4	4	8
22. Influenza	1	0	1
23. Pneumonia	8	4	12
24. Bronchitis	12	8	20
25. Other diseases of respiratory system	3	0	3
26. Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	4	0	4
27. Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	1	1	2
28. Nephritis and nephrosis	1	2	3
29. Hyperplasia of prostate	1	0	1
30. Pregnancy, childbirth, abortion	0	0	0
31. Congenital malformations	2	1	3
32. Other defined and ill-defined diseases	7	10	17
33. Motor Vehicle accidents	0	1	1
34. All other accidents	3	1	4
35. Suicide	0	0	0
36. Homicide and operations of War	0	0	0
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All causes	134	113	247
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A comparison of this table with last year's shows a decrease in deaths from Tuberculosis, Vascular Lesions, Congenital Malformations, and Accidents, and an increase is shown in deaths from Bronchitis, Cancer, and Heart Disease.

GENERAL PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA 1958.

LABORATORY FACILITIES.

Bacteriological Examination of sputa and throat swabs from general practitioners are undertaken by the Public Health Laboratory, Newcastle upon Tyne, and at the Public Health Laboratory, Hylton Road, Sunderland. Results and numbers of bacteriological examinations for the year 1958, are as follows :—

<i>For Tubercle.</i>		<i>For Diphtheria.</i>	
Positive	1	Negative	0
Negative	0	.....
	<hr/> 1		<hr/> 0
	<hr/> <hr/>		<hr/> <hr/>

AMBULANCE FACILITIES.

The new ambulance station for the area is at Usher Road, Hebburn, telephone Hebburn, 832157.

OTHER LOCAL HEALTH AUTHORITY SERVICES.

Vaccination against Smallpox and immunisation against Diphtheria, Whooping Cough, and Poliomyelitis, is available at the Child Welfare Clinics. Domiciliary Midwifery and Home Nursing Services are operated in the Urban District by three Midwives and three District Nurses respectively. Three Health Visitors are responsible for visiting and clinics in different districts and Home Helps are provided as necessary by the County Council Home Help Service.

CLINICS AND TREATMENT CENTRES.

A Clinic for children under five years of age is held at the Primitive Methodist Hall, Hedworth Lane, Boldon Colliery, alternate Tuesdays under the supervision of Durham County Council; there are also Clinics and Welfare Centres, held at the Wesleyan Hall, North Guards, Whitburn on Thursdays, and the Congregational Church Hall, East Boldon, on Monday afternoons.

HOSPITAL ACCOMMODATION FOR INFECTIOUS DISEASES CASES.

Arrangements made through Sunderland Hospital Management Committee for cases of Infectious Diseases where necessary, to be removed to the Sunderland Hospital for Infectious Diseases are still in operation.

WELFARE AND CARE OF THE AGED SICK AND MENTALLY UNSTABLE PERSONS.

During the year, several premises were visited in which the inhabitants were old and unable to look after themselves properly; the homes of some mentally unstable persons were also visited.

PREVALENCE AND CONTROL OVER INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

The total number of Infectious Diseases notified during the year 1958 was 39, this figure excludes Tuberculosis and shows a decrease of 361 as compared with 1957.

MEASLES accounted for 5 of the cases and showed a decrease of 336 on last year's figures. There were 20 Whooping Cough cases, 12 less than last year.

DIPHTHERIA. No cases of Diphtheria were notified during the year. 261 Records have been received of Immunizations against Diphtheria this year an increase of 108 as compared with last year.

SCARLET FEVER. 7 Notifications were received, an increase of 1 compared with the previous year. The cases being of a mild nature were capable of being nursed at home.

POLIOMYELITIS. 1 Case of Poliomyelitis was officially notified, which was not confirmed.

FOOD POISONING. No case occurred in the district.

TUBERCULOSIS. 9 Cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis were notified during 1958, and there were 2 non-pulmonary tuberculosis cases. 1 Death occurred during the year.

Disinfections are carried out at the houses where there has been a death or removal of a person suffering from Tuberculosis.

Visits are made to all notified cases of important infectious diseases, the history of each case taken, and investigations made of all possible source of infection, and where possible the premises and infectious articles are disinfected.

A small quantity of Diphtheria Propylactic is kept to supply local doctors, but Prophylactics and Antitoxins for Diphtheria, Diphtheria and Whooping Cough, and Whooping Cough alone are available from the County Health Department, on demand by any medical practitioner.

Bottles of Disinfectant are issued, as usual, from the Health Department on receipt of a Doctor's note or Health Visitor's slip.

The number of notifications of the chief infectious diseases during the quinquennium preceding 1958, is shewn thus :—

NOTIFIABLE DISEASES.		Diphtheria	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Food Poisoning	Pneumonia	Puerperal Pyrexia	Measles	Whooping Cough	Acute Poliomyelitis	Paratyphoid	Dysentery
Year.	Population.													
1953	17,440	1	1	3	16	3	.....	3	.....	88	31	1	.....	3
1954	17,600	.....	.....	19	16	3	.....	4	1	188	21	5	.....	.....
1955	18,020	.....	.....	1	5	2	.....	1	1	146	38	4	3	3
1956	18,390	.....	.....	1	18	5	.....	6	.....	2	38	3	.....	.....
1957	18,960	.....	.....	6	14	2	.....	5	1	341	32	1	.....	14
1958	19,540	1	.....	7	9	2	.....	1	.....	5	20	1	.....	4

The following table shows the age incidence of each of the infectious diseases.

CASES OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE NOTIFIED DURING THE YEAR 1958.

NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.	NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.										Total Cases notified in each Ward.								
	AT AGES—YEARS.																		
	At all ages	Under one year	1—2 years	2—3 years	3—4 years	4—5 years	5—10 years	10—15 years	15—20 years	20—35 years	35—45 years	45—65 years	65 upwards	Whitburn	Whitburn Coll.	East Boldon	West Boldon	Boldon Colliery	Cladon
Scarlet Fever	7	1	4	3	3	2	5						5	2	1	8	10	1	1
Whooping Cough	20					2	7												
Diphtheria	1					2													
Measles	5		1	2		1	1					1		1	3	1			1
Pneumonia	1																		
*Acute Poliomyelitis	1				1														
Acute Encephalitis																			
Dysentery			2		1				1										4
Ophthalmia Neonatorum	4																		
Puerperal Pyrexia																			
Smallpox																			
Paratyphoid																			
Enteric or Typhoid																			
Food Poisoning																			
Erysipelas																			
Chicken Pox																			
Malaria																			
Cholera																			
Typhus Fever																			
Total	39	1	7	5	5	5	13		1	1		1		6	5	4	8	10	6

*Not Confirmed.

TUBERCULOSIS.

During the year, 11 cases of Tuberculosis were notified. 9 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 2 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 1 death occurred from Tuberculosis.

NEW CASES OF TUBERCULOSIS AND MORTALITY DURING THE YEAR 1958.

AGE PERIODS.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.	Male.	Female.
0-1 .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
1-5 .....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
5-15 .....	....	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
15-25	2	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
25-35	2	....	....	1	....	....	....	....
35-45 .....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
45-55 .....	....	1	....	....	....	....	....	....
55-65	1	....	....	....	....	....	....	....
65 and upwards	1	....	....	....	1	....	....	....
Totals	6	3	....	2	1	....	....	....

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE DISTRICT.

To the Medical Officer of Health.

Sir.

During 1958, considerable progress was made in the eradication of slum dwellings, a total of 25 houses being demolished or closed. A clearance area of 20 houses was made and work was commenced on the inspection of other properties for other areas. Unfortunately slum clearance is not a matter which will come to a sudden end, as houses continue to deteriorate and unless powers are provided to prevent this some action of clearance will always be necessary.

Two new Acts came into force and the Slaughterhouses Act is the most complicated ever to become law. This was followed by the Slaughter of Animals Act which consolidates previous law and makes provision for recent new methods. Next come the Slaughterhouses Hygiene Regulations which when in force will make needed improvements in hygiene.

In food premises the year has been one of good progress and with few exceptions they are definitely above the legal standards laid down.

I wish to thank the members of the Council for the support they have given me at all times, the departments Clerk, Mrs. Slater, and the whole of the Council's staff for their co-operation during the year.

R. W. ARMSTRONG,

Public Health Inspector.

HOUSING.

During the year, the tenants of two clearance areas were rehoused by the Council and 26 houses were built for this purpose.

Twenty Houses were demolished, 5 houses closed and 104 persons in 26 families were displaced. In addition, 4 families from Army Camps were rehoused.

One clearance area was submitted by the Council to the Ministry for confirmation and after a public enquiry the Minister's decision was still awaited at the end of the year.

During the past year, several interested bodies have suggested to the Minister of Housing that the standard of accommodation as laid down by the Royal Commission in 1946 should be adopted, and rightly so ; but in addition local authorities should have power to compel, with the aid of grants, the improvements of suitable properties with a possible life of 15 years or more.

Only in this way can houses be prevented from deteriorating into slums with the resulting high cost of replacement with new ones.

A total of 303 houses were inspected and 610 visits made in conjunction with housing conditions as follows :

UNDER PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	178
Number of visits made	335

UNDER HOUSING ACTS.

Number of houses inspected	125
Number of visits made	275
Cases of overcrowding investigated.....	15
Number of new houses built and occupied during the year.....	222
Total number of visits made in connection with the above	610
Total number of houses closed voluntarily by the owner.....	Nil.
Number of houses unfit for human habitation in respect of which an undertaking was given for repair by owner	2

Number of houses found to require repair under the Public Health Acts	30
Number of houses found to require repair under the Housing Acts	3
Number of houses repaired under the Public Health Act after formal notices by the local authority	7
Number of houses repaired under the Housing Act after formal notices by the local authority	2
Number of houses repaired as a result of informal action	22
Houses at which other matters were remedied under the Public Health Act	6
Total number of defects remedied.....	65

SQUATTERS CAMPS.

The remaining four families living in former Army Camps were rehoused by the Council in January, and the Camp returned to the administration of the War Department who have since disposed of the hutments. There are now no camps being used for residential purposes in this district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS.

Five sites in the district are licensed for the accommodation of caravans. The Council in 1956 made new conditions for the issue of licences and these have resulted in the dilapidated vehicles and structures being removed. Old buses, huts, etc., have been demolished and site owners are required to provide adequate sanitary accommodation, for which they are responsible, refuse bins and disposal, and the keeping of the site in a tidy and well ordered condition are also their responsibility. The owners of sites have also agreed that no permanent residence shall be permitted ; the sites being used for holiday and pleasure purposes only, and this provision seems to be encouraging a good type of camp user.

DIRTY AND VERMINOUS PREMISES AND PERSONS.

Twenty-three Visits were made in connection with these matters and 47 houses were sprayed to destroy vermin and to disinfect, whilst dirty persons of whom

they are very few, were by constant visits and pursuasion in most cases improved.

Only in one instance (a Council tenant) was it necessary for the Council to threaten proceedings or eviction, and this had the desired effect.

WATER SUPPLIES.

The district is principally supplied by the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company, and one house secures its supplies from a shallow well.

ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.

(1) The water supply of the area has been satisfactory in quality and quantity throughout the year 1958.

(2) Bacteriological examinations were made during the year from the various deep wells and other sources which constitute the supply, also from reservoirs and consumers taps and the following results were obtained :

	COLIFORM PERCENTAGES.		
	<i>No. of Samples</i>	<i>Negative in 100 ml.</i>	<i>Positive in 100 ml.</i>
Wells and other Sources	241	90.9	9.1
Reservoirs	107	91.6	8.4
Taps	126	95.2	4.8

(3) The water has no detectable plumbo-solvent action.

(4) The supply is chlorinated and no contamination has taken place.

(5) There are 6,364 domestic premises connected to the Company's supply mains in the area.

(6) There are no stand pipes in the area.

TYPICAL ANALYSIS OF WATER SUPPLY.		<i>Parts per million.</i>
<i>Chemical Analysis.</i>		
Total Solids		370
Suspended Solids		Nil.
Total Hardness		259
Permanent Hardness		71
Temporary Hardness		188
Calcium Oxide		82
Magnesium Oxide		45
Sulphur Trioxide		77
Chloride		39
Free Chlorine		trace
Nitrogen as Nitrates .....		.....
Dissolved Oxygen		9
Free Carbon Dioxide		6.4
Iron		Nil.
Manganese		Nil.
Silica .....		.....

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

8,612 Yards of drains were examined during the year nearly all being at new private dwellings built in the area, an increase of 2,626 yards over those inspected in 1957.

The work is generally of good standard, and mostly of standard glazed pipes. A small amount of work was carried out with pitch fibre pipes and these have been found to be satisfactory in every way.

The schemes for the improvement of the sewerage arrangements at Whitburn was completed before the year's end, and this prevented the flooding of existing houses in bad weather, and enabled the Council to start the construction of houses in the area for slum clearance and other purposes.

CLOSET ACCOMMODATION.

<i>Type of Closet</i>	1954	1955	1956	1957	1958
Ash Closets	59	58	57	57	57
Water Closets	6,353	6,502	6,760	6,927	7,149
Chemical Closets	28	28	28	28	28

One Ash Closet has been demolished.

RIVERS AND STREAMS.

A complaint was received about a foul smell from a ditch adjoining a roadway, and it was found that field drains which were below the bottom of the ditch were discharging at such a rate that the sludge was being lifted to the surface and carried a considerable distance. Fortunately, a road improvement necessitated piping the ditches and this will prevent further nuisance.

SCHOOLS.

One complaint was received about sanitary accommodation in schools, and it was found that the flushing apparatus of the water closets at an infant's school was so corroded and heavy that the children could not operate it. Work was immediately carried out to remedy this and further improvements are in hand for the premises.

Water supplies in schools are all from service mains of the Sunderland and South Shields Water Company and are satisfactory.

It was not necessary to take any action in respect of infectious disease in school children.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

The collection of household refuse is carried out by direct labour under the control of the Surveyor in a satisfactory manner. The refuse is disposed of by tipping into disused clay pits and other sites within the urban district, the ground afterwards being levelled and used for agricultural purposes.

PIG STYES.

There are a number of premises in the area used for breeding or fattening of pigs for bacon and pork. It seems to me unfortunate that the construction of buildings for such purposes or any other agricultural use are not subject to any planning control. Some of these premises erected by amateur labour are in every way detrimental to the area. Fortunately, they are nearly all far enough from dwelling houses to avoid complaint.

The practice of persons rearing one or two pigs for their own consumption has been gradually dying out over the years and very few indeed are now so kept.

STABLES.

There is one farm in the area used as stables for riding school, and it is well managed and kept clean.

POULTRY, ETC.

Several visits were made to houses, etc., about the keeping of poultry and pets, but in no case was any nuisance found.

SWIMMING BATHS AND POOLS.

There are no public or privately owned swimming baths or pools in the area.

CLEAN AIR ACT, 1956.

This Act, has now been in force for two years, and the amount of progress made in that time make one realise that it is unlikely that we will achieve the ideal of smoke-free air within our lifetime.

I am of the opinion that the Ministry should firstly have ensured a steadily rising production of smokeless fuel, and, relating to this to the whole country have required each authority to declare clean air areas in proportion to the fuel available, taking note of the type and position of the district.

There are a number of loopholes in the Act which I hope will be dealt with in amending legislation, one of which is nuisance from stone dust plants, tarmacadam plants, etc., in which the dust is wind borne. It should be the owners' duty to prove that no further remedies are possible, and not the authority's to show that other steps can be taken.

Finally, the Act as existing does nothing to prevent the most damaging pollutant, sulphur-dioxide, being discharged, and it seems that little effort is being made to find ways of eliminating it. Up to the end of the year the only action taken has been the adoption of the Model Building Byelaw requiring the installation of fireplaces, etc., capable of burning smokeless fuel in all new buildings.

RAG FLOCK ACT, 1951.

There are no registered premises within the Urban District at which upholstering or stuffing of flock filled articles is carried on.

AGRICULTURAL (SAFETY, HEALTH AND WELFARE PROVISIONS) ACT, 1956.

No statutory action has been found to be necessary under the sections enforceable by this Council during the year.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

There are no premises within the Urban District registered as a pet shop for the sale of pet animals.

PESTS ACT, 1949.

The district is remarkably free from infestation of rats and mice. The complaints received are in nearly every case only of one rat and small infestations of mice.

Bi-annual test baiting of 10% of the sewers manholes was carried out and in the first treatment only 4 manholes were suspected of infestation these with adjoining manholes were given a full treatment with satisfactory results. In the second test no positive evidence of rodents was found at any manhole.

Private houses are treated at the request of the occupier free of charge; whilst business premises are treated for the actual cost of the treatment.

Nearly all the agricultural holdings on the district are treated by the County Agricultural Committee's rodent control department.

The total number of premises treated was 128, 19 more than in 1957. This shows that the rodent population is not changing much whilst the residents are making full use of the services provided.

One man is employed part time on rodent control work, and I wish to record my appreciation of the way he carried out the work with a minimum of supervision, and in a very thorough and conscientious manner.

The table below is in the form required by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries.

	TYPE OF PROPERTY.				Total.
	Local Authority	Dwelling Houses.	Agricul- ural.	All Other.	
Total number of properties in Local Authority's District	18	6,526	66	198	6,808
Number of properties inspected by the Local Authority during 1958 as a result of :—					
(a) notification	3	78	.....	12	93
(b) survey or otherwise	12	16	.....	.....	28
(c) otherwise	3	30	.....	1	34
Number of properties inspected which were found to be (Major).....					
infested by rats (Minor)	14	47	.....	8	69
Number of properties inspected which were found to be seriously infested by mice.....					
	4	51	.....	4	59
Number of infested properties treated by the Local Authority					
	18	98	.....	12	128
Number of Notices served under Section 4.					
Legal Proceedings					
Number of "Block" control schemes carried out					

FACTORY ACT, 1937.

Ninety visits were made to premises registered as factories in the district.

PART I OF THE ACT.

(1) INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Public Health Inspector).

	Number on Register	Number of		
		In- spections	Written Notices	Occupiers Prosecuted
(i) Factories in which Secs. 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by local authorities .....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Auth.....	35	73	.....	.....
(iii) Other Premises in which Section 7 is enforced by Local Authority	10	17	.....	.....
(excluding out-workers' premises).				
Total	45	90	.....	.....

(2) CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND.

Particulars	Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. by H.M.		Number of cases in which prosecu- tions were instituted
			Inspector	Inspector	
Want of Cleanliness	3	3	.....	.....	.....
Overcrowding .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Unreasonable temperature .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Inadequate ventilation .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Ineffective drainage of floors .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
SANITARY CONVENIENCES					
(a) insufficient .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
(b) unsuitable or defective	2	2	.....	.....	.....
(c) Not separate for the sexes .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Other offences against the Act (not including offences relating to outwork) .....	.....	.....	.....	.....	.....
Total	5	5	.....	.....	.....

INFECTIOUS DISEASE.

During the year, 8 visits were made in connection with the investigation and control of contagious disease, and arrangements made for the disinfection of the houses and bedding either on removal of the patient to hospital or on recovery.

SHOPS ACT, 1950—SECTIONS 38 and 72.

A total of 277 visits were made to shops in the district, not all of which come within the provisions of the sections.

FOOD AND DRUGS ACT, 1955.

There are 124 premises in the district in which food is prepared, stored, or sold. The standard of most of these premises is slightly better than the required standard. They are roughly classified as follows, but certain businesses deal in one or more main lines.

Confectioners	9	Fresh Fish	3
Butchers	11	Fish Fryers	6
Cafes	3	Grocers	47
Canteen & Kitchen	3	Greengrocers	10
Chemists	5	Sweets	11
Licensed Premises		16	

Forty-five premises are registered under the Food & Drugs Act as follows :—

Bakers	5	Butchers	11
Fishfryers	4	Ice-Cream	23

in addition, 34 premises mostly small general dealers are registered as distributors of milk, but no premises are registered as dairies.

During the year, 196 visits have been made to the above mentioned registered premises, the majority of inspections being confined to butchers and bakers establishments.

Opportunity is taken whenever possible to advise and instruct food handlers of the importance of personal hygiene, and in the proper protection and handling of

foodstuffs when visits are made to food premises. The fact that nearly all of the traders depend upon local trade and are therefore anxious to keep their customers means that they do not take risks which a shop depending only on passing trade often does.

Condemned meat and meat foods are normally burnt in the Council's incinerator to which it is carried in a Council lorry. Other foods such as tinned fruits, milk, etc., are buried on the Council's controlled tip.

It was not necessary to examine any large stocks or consignments of food during the year.

There are no Ice-Cream manufacturers in the district.

FOOD HYGIENE REGULATIONS.

Matters which I think should be considered in any revision of these regulations are :—

1. That all persons handling food should be provided with and required to wear white washable overalls and head coverings by the employer.
2. The use of newsprint, etc., should be entirely prohibited in food businesses.
3. Lavatory basins should be of the fixed type with hot and cold water and provided in the room in which the food handling takes place. (words conveniently accessible would thus be avoided).
4. Sinks too should be provided in the room where food or apparatus is to be washed.
5. In Regulations 25 the words "unless exposed for sale" should be omitted.
6. The supply of hot and cold water, sinks and lavatory basins on all stalls, vans, etc., transporting or dealing in foodstuffs whether for immediate consumption or not or for wholesale purposes should be compulsory.
7. The wholesale and retail transport of meat should be only permitted in properly designed vehicles.

I hope that the revision of these regulations will take place soon, and in order that a continuous process of improvement can take place, in keeping with modern principles.

During the year, 24 fixed wash hand basins ; 1 sink ; 4 lockers ; 3 counters were covered ; 6 hot water supplies provided ; 1 water closet repaired and 4 premises cleansed under the Regulations, and to date the following work as been completed.

69 Fixed wash hand basins with hot and cold water provided.

8 Fixed sinks with hot and cold water provided.

8 Counters covered with non-absorbent materials.

8 Lockers or cupboards for outdoor clothing provided.

9 Premises cleansed and redecorated.

4 Premises had repairs carried out.

In general the standard of food premises in this district is in advance of that laid down in the Regulations, and I feel that tradesmen would further improve their premises and methods were they required to do so by changing regulations.

SLAUGHTERHOUSES ACT, 1954.

There is only one Slaughterhouse in use in the district. It is owned by Boldon Co-operative Society Limited and came into operation in October, 1954. The Council have licensed it to operate until July, 1959, as permitted under the Act.

The owners agreed to allow any other butcher in the district to have full use of the facilities provided should they require it.

Two butchers and one farmer in addition to the Society regularly use the premises, as compared to eight who slaughtered pre-war.

The building provides lairage for cattle, sheep and pigs, a large slaughterhall and additional hanging space could be provided if it should be required.

It is in my opinion large enough to cater adequately for the slaughtering needs of the district.

The Council adopted the Model Byelaws for Slaughterhouses and they came into force in March.

They resulted in the regular cleansing and limewashing of the premises, the provision of a manure bay and refuse bins, and cleaner methods of work.

The greatest troubles arise from dirty and careless methods of slaughtermen who carry out their job in what they believe to be the quickest way although it could be done in a more cleanly manner. I feel that the new Slaughterhouse Regulations will overcome many of these difficulties especially when they are fully in operation.

MEAT INSPECTION.

The inspection of animals slaughtered at the above mentioned slaughterhouse for human consumption is regularly carried out.

Regular slaughtering takes place on four days of each week, but in addition, animals are slaughtered on other days, and it is here that difficulty is encountered. The notice of slaughter required to be given under the act is so short, three hours, that a person can notify the office after I leave, slaughter the animals and wish to remove it before I know anything of the matter. In common with many of my colleagues I think that this should be altered.

The butchers on the other hand do try to give as much notice as possible, and do not remove any meat until it has been inspected.

During the year, 3,489 carcasses were inspected and about 2,082 pounds of edible organs and flesh were condemned and destroyed in the Council's incinerator.

As will be seen from the table, less food was found unfit in 1958 than in 1957. The commonest cause for condemnation was the liver fluke, as 1,100 pounds was found to be unfit. At the same time, we were fortunate that no case of *Cysticercus Bovis* was found.

The following table is in the form recommended :—

MEAT INSPECTED AND CONDEMNED.

	Cattle	Cows	Calves	Sheep	Pigs	Horses	Total 1958	Total 1957
Number killed	795	24	1	2,444	225	—	3,489	3,079
Number inspected	795	24	1	2,444	225	—	3,489	3,079
ALL DISEASES—	—	1	—	1	—	—	2	2
Carcases condemned	189	—	—	—	1	—	190	232
Parts or Organs condemned.....	23.77%	4.16%	—	0.04%	0.44%	—	5.5%	7.59%
Percentage	—	—	1	—	—	—	1	—
Tuberculosis carcasses condemned	26	1	—	—	2	—	29	32
Parts or Organs condemned.....	3.27%	4.16%	100%	—	0.88%	—	0.85%	1.03%
Percentage	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
CYSTS—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Part carcasses or organs condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases re-refrigerated	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Generalised and condemned	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

OTHER FOODS.

No difficulty is encountered in securing the surrender and destruction of foodstuffs which are unfit for human consumption. Most of the tradesmen seek my advice on any food which is doubtful and willingly surrender any which is unfit. All the businesses are retail and it has not been necessary to examine any very large stocks of food.

The following foodstuffs were surrendered and destroyed :—

2	Tins of	Syrup.
8	"	Ham.
6	"	Salmon.
1	"	Cubed Beef Steak.
10	"	Tongue.
3	"	Suet.
2	"	Steak and Gravy.
1	"	Cooked Shoulder.
7	"	Mixed Vegetables.
1	"	Beans and Sausage.
9	"	Luncheon Meat.
16	"	Chopped Pork.
31	"	Pears.
61	"	Evaporated Milk.
58	"	Tomatoes.
32	"	Oranges.
4	"	Beans.
40	"	Peas.
5	"	Soup.
10	"	Corned Beef.
11	"	Stewed Steak.
13	"	Peaches.
2	"	Strawberries.
10	"	Pineapples.
14	"	Apricots.
7	"	Grapefruit.
8	"	Rice Pudding.
1	"	Pork Brawn.
47	Pkts. of	Potato Crisps.
24	Jars of	Liver and Bacon.
32	"	Red Cabbage.
7	"	Pickled Onions.
4	"	Meat Paste.

1 jar of	Chicken Fillet.
39 lbs. of	Sausage.
4 ,,	Veal.
25 ,,	Cheshire Cheese.
2 ,,	Spice Cake.
16 lbs. of	Madeira Cake.
3 ,,	Butter.
5 ,,	Bacon.
3 ,,	Shoulder Pork.
3 ,,	Kut-a-Kake.
5	Pies.
1	Chocolate Swiss Roll.

ADULTERATION OF FOOD.

Durham County Council are the responsible authority for the administration of those sections of the Food & Drugs Act which deal with adulteration and abstraction of substances from food, and they regularly take samples for analysis by the Public Analyst.

During 1958, 99 samples were taken of which 50 were of milk. No proceedings were taken.

PETROLEUM ACTS.

Ten visits were made during the year in connection with petroleum storage, and there are now thirty licensed premises.

